The Albertan — Billy Jones

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" 'Nature's Gentleman' , 'Billy Jones', is dead.

"Nature's Gentleman", William Thomas Jones, 91, one of the most unique characters in western history, died Thursda y evening at the home of his neice, Mrs. R.G. Byron-Johnson "Cottonwoods", Fintry, B.C.

A resident of Calgary for many years, "Billy" Jones, or as he was known to hundreds of his frie ds, "Daddy" Jones, withessed the unfolding of a wilderness into the West of today. From where Fort Calgary and Fort Garry once stood he sawth e cities of Calgary and Winnipeg emerge. He watched farms and ranches develop where he had once seen buffalo and Indians.

Although familiar in Calgary, "Billy" Jones was known much better in the country areas anywhere from Vancouver to Winnipeg, because his work was done mainly away from the cities.

Born in Waterford, Ireland, Oct. 16, 1853, he came to Canada to St Thomas, Ont., with his parents at the age of 11 years. Fishing, shooting and tapping maple trees were all important in "Billy" Jones' early life.

CALL OF THE WEST In 1874 he heeded the lure of the West and went to Winnipeg, then Fort Garry, with the party to relieve General Wolseley. The trip was made by scows, row boats and on foot. For six months he remained there, soldiering with the North West Mounted Police. Not overly fond of discipl ne, he left the "Mounties" and headed by ox-cart for Edmonton with the Hudson' Bay Company. Buffalo were plentiful at the time and at one point the trip it was impossible to make progress for three days. At times the men had to turn the carts upside down to protect themselves from fights between buffalo and the oxen which pulled the carts.

Until 1897 he was engaged in land survey for the Hudson's Bay Company and the C.P.R. He was on the party that surveyed the International Boundary through the mountains in the Waterto Lakes districts, also in on the survey of the half-breed lots at Fort Garry and on the Manitoba boundary survey with William Pearce, well-known old time C.P.R. surveyor of Calgary.

In 1880 he travelled with the late Col. Belcher from Winnipeg to Fort Saskatchewan by Red River cart, the trip taking two mo ths. He joined a special party to survey the fifth meridan from Edmonton to the international boundary through Calgary. This was his first visit here. HELPED MAKE HISTORY. In 1885 at the outbreak of the Riel Rebellion he was in charge of a freighting party from Swift Current ot Battleford where he not only saw, but helped to make history.

For some time he served with the Dominion land department in Edmonton and in 1889 he again took service under Mr. Pearce. He later selected the land grant for the Great Falls and Canada railway. For five years he was crown lands timber inspector.

In 1897 again struck by ~~by~~ the wanderlust, "Billy" Jones set out for the Yukon where he located on Sulphur Creek. For seven years he witnessed the gold rush and became a colorful figure in the trail of '98. It is said he raised the best team of huskies in the Yukon.

He then returned to the C.P.R. dept. of Natural Resources as land inspector, remained there until his retirement in 1927.